

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Senate Executive Committee
Minutes
August 25, 2014

Present: Chair Roy Campbell, Vice Chair Kim Graber, Nicholas Burbules, John Hart, Matthew Hill, Calvin Lear, Melissa Madsen, William Maher, Mary Mallory, Gay Miller, David O'Brien (via phone), Kevin Seymour (via phone), Joyce Tolliver

Absent: Michael Sandretto

Guests: Chancellor Phyllis Wise, Provost and Vice chancellor for Academic Affairs Ilesanmi Adesida, Associate Chancellor Reginald Alston, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Academic Policies Abbas Benmamoun, Equal Opportunity and Inclusion Committee Chair Harry Hilton, Associate Chancellor for Public Affairs Robin Kaler, Campus Faculty Association Member Richard Laugesen, Anthropology Professor Ellen Moodie, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Renee Romano, Director of American Indian Studies Robert Warrior

Media: Daily Illini – Angelica Lavito, Inside Illinois – Mike Helenthal, News Gazette – Christine De Garennes and Photographer Heather Coit

A regular meeting of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was called to order at 3:12 pm on Monday, August 25, 2014 in 232 English Building, with Chair Campbell presiding.

1. Introductions

Guests and SEC members were introduced.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from June 23, 2014 were approved as written. The minutes from July 22, 2014 were approved as written.

3. Chair's Remarks

Campbell welcomed new and returning committee members.

Campbell reported that former Student Body President and SEC member Brock Gebhardt passed away recently. Suggestions for a memorial in Gebhardt's name were made. Hill noted that the Illinois Student Senate (ISS) alumni reunion plans to include a memorial service for Gebhardt and suggested that SEC combine efforts with ISS.

There have been many discussions on this campus about academic freedom and employment processes. This topic will be addressed later in the meeting.

Two years ago the Senate Committee on General University Policy (GUP) conducted a shared governance survey. This survey eventually led to the Shared Governance Checklist. Provost Adesida intends to incorporate the Checklist into a Provost Communication.

Campbell read an email* from American Indian Studies (AIS) Professor Vicente Diaz that was sent to Campbell today and addressed to the SEC. Campbell noted that the AIS Statement of no confidence in the Chancellor was not approved for distribution to the Senate listserv. Lear noted that the topic could not be discussed unless the SEC voted to add it to the agenda as new business, and as new business no action could be taken. Burbules indicated that he would not recuse himself from the discussion as Diaz requested. A robust discussion followed.

Lear made a motion to postpone discussion on this topic and discuss the topic under New Business if added to the agenda. Hart seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

4. Chancellor's Remarks

Wise noted the MASSMAIL email titled "The Principles on Which We Stand" that was sent on August 22 outlining the actions that were taken regarding Professor Salaita. Wise reiterated that Illinois has to

welcome uncomfortable and provocative conversations. Debate and disagreement are valued and critical to the success of this university. Illinois is also committed to creating a welcoming environment for faculty and students to explore difficult and complex issues.

Provost Adesida meets with academic units annually. This year the Chancellor will join the Provost.

5. Resolution on Ad Hoc Committee Formation

Tolliver distributed a draft resolution* on the formation of an SEC *ad hoc* committee to propose a process for impartial and expeditious consultation to be followed in cases where the provost or the chancellor find potential reasons not to proceed with a tenure-track hire that has already been approved by department and college committees. Tolliver moved approval of the resolution. A vigorous discussion followed.

Maher suggested that this topic be discussed by the GUP Committee. GUP Chair Burbules indicated that GUP currently has a full schedule and would prefer a separate task force be created by the SEC to address this unique situation. Mallory suggested the GUP form a subcommittee to address the topic. The desired outcome is to have the *ad hoc* committee develop a written process to address when the Provost or the Chancellor find potential reasons not to proceed with a tenure-track hire that has already been approved by department and college committees.

Maher moved the previous question. The motion was seconded and approved.

Tolliver restated her motion to approve the resolution as written. The motion was seconded and approved.

Chair Campbell and Provost Adesida will discuss potential *ad hoc* committee members.

6. Designate Urbana Senate Observer

David O'Brien will attend the September 11, 2014 Board of Trustees meeting as the Urbana Senate Observer.

7. New Business

Burbules noted that the University Senates Conference (USC) approved a proposed revision to the *Statutes* that the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) will hear concerns about governance processes from units.

Miller reported that the College of Medicine proposal was presented at the Senate Committee on Educational Policy meeting today. The discussion went well. The public hearing for this proposal will be held on September 12, 2014 at noon with the location to be determined.

Mallory expressed her concern that USC Chair Donald Chambers signed a statement in support of the Chancellor which appeared that Chambers was representing the USC. Burbules and Campbell noted that Chambers repeatedly stated that his support was as an individual and not as the chair of USC. Discussion followed. Graber, as a professor of Kinesiology and Community Health (not as vice chair of SEC), stated her full support of Chancellor Wise.

Lear noted that SEC needs to review past executive sessions to determine if the recordings are to remain confidential.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Jenny Roether
Clerk of the Senate

*Filed with the Senate Clerk and incorporated by reference in these minutes.